



REIMAGING THEOLOGICAL DISCOURSE FOR  
URBAN CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES!

# URBAN DIVINITY SCHOOL

TRAINING LEADERS TO TRANSFORM CULTURES...

**ASSOCIATES, BACHELORS AND  
MASTERS DEGREES IN APPLIED  
MINISTRY DISCIPLINES**

For details, visit [www.UDS.edu](http://www.UDS.edu)



ob nostri liberationem -  
for our liberation

Our symbol:  
The Scarab -

Scarab was one of the most important symbols in the ancient Egyptian culture. Scarab beetle (*Scarabaeus sacer*), which is also known as the dung beetle, represents the sun, recreation of life/resurrection and transformation

# Urban Divinity School

*ob nostri liberationem*

## 1. History of the Institution

Urban Divinity School (UDS) is a more than 20-year vision of the Reverend Dr. U. A. Thompson, Sr. a Greenville Native, who envisioned a theological institution that educates, eradicates, establishes and liberates both sapiens and systems. Born from a concern to give a voice to the silenced and a desire to address the ills of society, including poverty, inequality, systemic racism, and oppression. Recognizing the absence of concentrated theological focus and reflection on urban renewal, social action and social justice within the church and community of this modern era, UDS seeks to equip unequipped leaders with the ability to express the claims of Jesus through the principles set forth in his social gospel message. To accomplish this task, we need properly trained leaders of the church and community, who maintain conscious awareness of and presence in the many layers of social constructs, systems and scenarios present in Urban communities. To this end, UDS embodies the spirit of liberation, transformation and renewal as proclaimed by Christ' good news (the gospel) for those living within life's margins.

## 2. Christian Philosophy of Education

Urban Divinity School is committed to a pedagogy of formation that not only trains students to think theologically about God, life, and the world around them, but also guides them in their spiritual development from faith to action. At UDS, education is not reduced to a simple exchange of information between professors and students, but, instead, fosters a way of life that emphasizes ecumenism, multiculturalism, and critical thinking in implementing a vision of social justice that pursues, through urban renewal, economic revitalization, and institutional reform, liberation for the oppressed, marginalized, and disenfranchised of society.

## 3. Mission Statement

Urban Divinity School exists to prepare students for positions in ecclesial, social, and academic leadership and service by equipping them with both the practical and critical skills necessary to affect change in their churches and communities as well as their academic and professional institutions. Essential to carrying out this mission is creating an integrated educational atmosphere through strategic partnerships with churches, non-profit organizations, such as Urban Divinity Center, and the formation of divinity jr., which will provide UDS students with opportunities to participate directly in urban renewal and to learn concrete ways of embodying their theological education for the revitalization of their church, community, and society.

Urban Divinity School will adopt, adhere to, and advance the goals and objectives outlined by Partnering College in the Faculty Handbook.

#### **4. Our Vision**

Urban Divinity School is committed to becoming a premier educational institution for theological and spiritual formation, transformation, and a leader in social justice.

*Thinking theologically for urban renewal and social justice.  
Thinking Socially. Living Theologically. Seeking Transformation.*

#### **5. Solidarity of Faith**

In addition to affirming the historic Christian faith articulated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, Urban Divinity School faculty and staff will read, understand, and respect Partnering College's Biblical Foundation Statement.

Urban Divinity School faculty and staff will abide by and uphold both the ethical and spiritual values and faculty personnel policies outlined by Partnering College in the Faculty Handbook with any addendums pertinent to the formation of the graduate school.

**Urban Divinity School**  
Certificate and Degree Programs

**Certificate in Prophetic Preaching** (18 credit hrs.)

Examination of Old Testament Prophets (3 hrs.)

Contextualized Preaching (3 hrs.)

Homiletics (3 hrs.)

Hermeneutics and Exegesis (3 hrs.)

Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Prophetic Preachers (3 hrs.)

Thinking Theologically about Preaching (3 hrs.)

**Certificate in Social Justice** (18 credit hrs.)

Black Church Studies (3 hrs.)

Comparative Theology: A Dialogue Between Black and White Theologies (3 hrs.)

God of the Oppressed (3 hrs.)

Black Liberation Theology: Then and Now (3 hrs.)

Enacting Social Transformation (3 hrs.)

Ethical Principles and Practices for Social Justice (3 hrs.)

**Master of Arts in Theological Studies** (36 credit hrs.)

Prophetic Preaching

Social Justice

**Master of Divinity** (90 credit hrs.)

Prophetic Preaching

Social Justice

\*Undergraduate degrees offered through our articulation agreement with partnering College.